



I Need Your Help to Improve Braddock/Pleasant Valley

As you know, I've been working hard to improve the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley since the moment I took office in January 2012. We've made tremendous progress by receiving Commonwealth Transportation Board approval for an official VDOT project to build a roundabout at the intersection, with \$1.2 million from Loudoun County and \$1.6 from the Commonwealth. While I know this improvement has been a long time coming since the time I initiated this effort, we have actually gotten to this step quickly compared to many other projects.

But, there are still some hurdles left, **and I will need your help to get this project completed.**

VDOT has scheduled a Public Hearing on Braddock/Pleasant Valley on Wednesday, October 9, from 6-8 pm at Ormond Stone Middle School, 5500 Sully Park Drive in Centreville, VA. VDOT and consultant engineers will be on hand to explain the design and answer questions. Unfortunately, VDOT scheduled this hearing the same evening as a Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing, so I cannot attend.

You should be aware that there is an organized effort from the Virginia Run community in Fairfax County to oppose this vitally needed improvement and flood the official record with comments opposed to it.

I need as many of you as possible to provide comments in support of this intersection improvement.

Later in October, I will be working with VDOT to host a public information session closer to residents in the Dulles District. However, it is still important for you to attend the "official" public hearing mentioned above, as it is the only official hearing. The local information session I am setting up will be held on Thursday, October 17 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Little River Elementary School, 43464 Hyland Hills Street, South Riding.

Should you not be able to attend either of these meetings, you may submit comments to Mr. Leonard "Bud" Siegel, P.E. through regular mail at VDOT District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or through email at meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "Braddock and Pleasant Valley Roundabout" in the subject line.

Finally, you should be aware that VDOT recently informed me that the cost estimate for this project has increased by \$1.4 million beyond what was budgeted. This is largely due to environmental issues at the intersection. The increased cost estimate would apply to either the roundabout design proposed or a traditional traffic signal/turn lane configuration. In fact, VDOT believes that the traffic signal/turn lane option would likely be more expensive than the roundabout because of difficulty building the turn lane that would be necessary. The analysis shows that the roundabout design moves traffic more quickly and safely.

I believe that it is VDOT's responsibility to provide additional funding for this project. As I've mentioned before, this project is the first significant project located outside of Loudoun County that the County has funded. Fairfax County is not willing to put any funds toward this project. At the time that the Loudoun Board of Supervisors appropriated these funds, we were told that it was enough to ensure the project got built.

Since I was made aware of this funding issue, I have been working with Delegate David Ramadan to ensure that VDOT meets its commitment. I believe we are making some progress and I wish to thank Delegate Ramadan for his willingness to press this issue in Richmond to the highest levels of state government. Rest assured that I will continue to fight hard for this improvement. Also, please know that the budget shortfall has not affected the project timeline to this point, and we will be able to continue with the design phase with the funds that have been budgeted so far. I am hopeful that we will find a resolution soon and I will provide updates when I have them.

Please feel free to share this with all of your friends and neighbors--and make sure to let VDOT know that you support improving Braddock and Pleasant Valley!

Also, please note that the next Dulles Direct Town Hall Meeting will be on Thursday, October 3 at Mercer Middle School in Stone Ridge from 7pm to 9pm. Dulles District School Board Representative Jeff Morse will join me to give an update and take any and all questions.

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